



TITLE: EASY JAR OPENER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to jar openers and, more particularly pertains to a device with a handle while having an attached adjustable strap so as to be able to wrap around and engage any size cap on a jar.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF TILE PRIOR ART

There have been numerous patents granted in the field of jar openers such as US Patent No. 4,766,781 where two conical members create a means for removing the cap of a jar. In US Patent No. 4,532,831 a jar opener is shown comprising a cord looped around the cap with a handle. The cord is twisted which applies pressure to the cap and thereafter removes the cap of the jar. In US Patent No. 4,306,470 the invention has an elongated handle with a semicircular jaw at one end and a second jaw on the other end. When closed around the cap the jaws provide enough pressure so as to open a jar. In US patent No. D 440,842, the invention provides two adjustable jaws which grip the cap on two opposite sides. A handle is provided so as to grasp and twist the cap thereby removing the cap of a jar.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the forgoing disadvantages inherent in the known jar openers now present in the prior art, the present invention provides an improved jar opener for people with arthritis. Each uses the same basic principle. As suck the general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new and improved jar opening apparatus and method of use which has all the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

To attain this, the present invention provides a jar opener which is designed with easy handling for people with arthritis. The present invention also provides a larger than normal handle with one end being flat and non functional while the opposite end is formed into a concave dish design, with a gripping teeth thereon, so as to

1 accommodate and engage with the ribbed edge of any cap on a jar. An adjustable
2 gripping strap is provided with the inside being of a rough serrated surface. The
3 rough side of the strap grips and mates with the ribbed texture of any jar cap. One
4 end of the gripping strap is permanently attached to one side of the handle. The
5 adjustable gripping strap loosely wraps around the cap of a jar while the opposite end
6 of the strap aligns and tightens onto the opposite side of the handle by a releasable
7 securing means, such as VELCRO. The user then grasps the handle of the present
8 invention with one hand and uses their opposite hand to stabilize the jar. The user
9 simple applies grasping pressure on the handle of the present invention and pushes in
10 a counter clockwise direction thereby loosening the cap while rotating the cap of the
11 jar to the open position. All caps on jars are removed by twisting in a counter
12 clockwise while the tightening is accomplished by twisting in a clockwise direction.
13 The size of the handle is specifically designed to be larger than normal. This increased
14 size allows a person with arthritis to easily wrap their hand and fingers around the
15 handle thereby creating a better grip so as to easily turn the handle thereby opening
16 the cap of any size jar. The shape of the handle ranges from round to square or
17 hexagon. The more edges the easier it will be to grip the handle; such as a hexagon
18 shaped handle. The handle is approximately 5 to 6 inches long and approximately ½
19 of an inch to 3 inches in diameter; preferred is 2 inches in diameter. The handle of the
20 present invention is best manufactured by injection molding. Within the molding
21 procedure a recessed area is built into one side which accommodates one end of the
22 gripping strap. A permanent attachment means secures the strap to the handle at this
23 position. The strap may be selected from a rubber, plastic or a nylon material with
24 one side being smooth while the other side has a rough serrated surface so as to be
25 able to mate or grasp the rough outer edge of the cap for the jar. The strap is
26 sufficiently long enough to be wrapped around any size circumference of a cap. The
27 strap length ranges from 6 inches to 20 inches. Preferred is approximately 12 inches.
28 The strap must be long enough to wrap around the complete cap of the jar and return
29 to the handle and be secured onto the handle by a releasable securing means.
30 The present invention has the following list of component parts;

- 1 **(1) A gripping handle;**
- 2 **(2) An adjustable strap;**
- 3 **(3) A permanent attachment means for the first end of the strap to the handle;**
- 4 **(4) A releasable securing means for the loose end of the strap.**

5 **The present invention also has a method of use sequence for removing the cap of**
6 **any jar:**

- 7 (a) Wrap the provided strap around the outer edge of the cap on the jar;
- 8 (b) Secure the strap back onto the opposite side of the handle;
- 9 (c) Grasp the present invention by the handle with one hand;
- 10 (d) Grasp and stabilize the selected jar with the opposite hand;
- 11 (e) Push the handle in an operational counter clockwise direction until the cap is in
- 12 the open position;
- 13 (f) Release the strap from the handle securing means thereby releasing the cap from
- 14 within the grasp of the strap.

The present invention is designed for easy use especially for people with arthritis with limited use of their hands and fingers. The larger than normal handle increases the leverage factor for an easy to use invention. The strap is long enough so as to accommodate any size cap. The releasable securing means may optionally be selected from a material such as VELCRO which have hook and pile surfaces. One surface of the VELCRO would be attached to the handle surface, such as the pile surface, and the other surface of the VELCRO would be the hook surface which is attached to the inside surface of the strap. Both would be attached to the respective surface by means of a sticky tape means.

24 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the jar opener apparatus of the
25 invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better
26 understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better
27 appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the present invention that will

1 be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims
2 appended hereto.

3 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the present invention
4 in detail, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited in its
5 application to the details of construction and the arrangement of the components set
6 forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is
7 capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways,
8 also, it is to be fully understood that the phraseology and terminology employed
9 herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

10 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the concept, upon which this
11 disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other
12 structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purpose of the present
13 invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such
14 equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the
15 present invention.

16 Further, the purpose of the foregoing is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark
17 Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and
18 practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or
19 phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of
20 the technical disclosure of the present application. The abstract is neither intended to
21 define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it
22 intended to be limited as to the scope of the present invention in any way.

23 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar
24 opener which has the advantage of the prior art devises and none of the
25 disadvantages.

26 It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar
27 opener which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar opener which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener which can be manufactured a low cost with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly cab be sold at low prices to the consuming public, thereby making such jar opening apparatus economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener which provides the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the advantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener operable from a novice's level.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved system for opening a jar.

These together with other objects of the present invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the present invention, are pointed out with a particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the present invention, its operating and installation advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the invention, in solid lines, placed around the cap

1 of a jar, in dotted lines, and the user's hand, in dotted lines, positioned on the handle
2 of the invention.

3 Fig. 2 is a flat top view of the invention

4 Fig. 3 is a top view of the strap.

5 Fig. 4 is a flat view of the rough side of the strap.

6 Fig. 5 is a close up flat view of outer edge of the jar and the gripping teeth end of the
7 handle.

8 Fig. 6 is a top view of the hook and pile surface of the VELCRO releasable attachment
9 means.

10 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

11 The present invention in Fig. 1 presents the jar opener 1 showing the position of the
12 user's band 15, in dotted lines, grasped around the handle 9 pushing in a general
13 counter clockwise direction 2. The top of the strap 3 is shown with the outside of the
14 strap 5 wrapped around the jar 6 with cap 7. One end of strap 3 is permanently
15 attached to the handle 9 by securing means 8. The gripping teeth 10 of the handle 9
16 for the jar opener 1 mates with the rough edge of cap 7 thereby creating a means to
17 enable the jar opener 1 to remove the cap 7 from jar 6. The strap 3 is releasably
18 secured by securing means 4 on handle 9. The loose end of strap 3 slides into and
19 through securing means 4 thereby securing the strap 3 so as not to slip while the strap
20 3 is placed around the cap 7.

21 Fig. 2 reveals a view of the jar opener 1 with handle 9 with strap 3 permanently
22 attached by securing means 8 to handle 9 while the loose end of strap 3 is releasably
23 secured to handle 9 by securing means 4. The end gripping teeth 10 are shown at one
24 end on handle 9. As in Fig. 1 the releasable securing means for the loose end of strap 3
25 may optionally be VELCRO.

26 Fig. 3 is a top view of the strap 3 showing the rough gripping surface 12 on one side
27 of strap.

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1 **Fig. 4 is a flat view of strap 3 with rough gripping surface 12.**

2 **Fig. 5 is a close up detailed view of the handle 9 with the gripping teeth 10 and the**
3 **jar cap 7 with gripping surface 11. When gripping teeth 10 come in contact with the**
4 **caps outer gripping surface like two mutually mate and create a means for the jar to**
5 **be stabilized in a stationary position to the handle 9. This stops any slippage until the**
6 **strap is attached to the handle. The strap now performs the balance of the pressure so**
7 **as to crack and move the cap 7 to an open position.**

8 **Fig. 6 is a top view of the two pieces of VELCRO 18 showing pile surface 22 and**
9 **hook surface 20. Both pieces of VELCRO 18 show a sticky tape on the outer surface**
10 **24 which may optionally be used as the releasable securing means within the scope of**
11 **the present invention. One VELCRO surface would be attached to the inside surface**
12 **of the strap and the opposite VELCRO surface would be attached to the side of the**
13 **handle.**

14 **The scope within the present invention has designed a very simple jar opener**
15 **which allows people with arthritis to open ajar.**

16 **As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should**
17 **be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to**
18 **the manner of usage and operation will be provided.**

19 **With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum**
20 **dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,**
21 **materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are**
22 **deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent**
23 **relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are**
24 **intended to be encompassed by the present invention.**

25 **Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the**
26 **invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will be readily**
27 **understood by those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the**
28 **exact construction**

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2 **and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and**
3 **equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the**

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